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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS

LIONHEART OF
AVALON PART
44/6

FINCH
TRUBERT
FGD

DIRECT EDITION



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\$2.25 US \$3.25 CAN



KELSEY LEIGH
Heroic Parent

S T A N L E E P R E S E N T S

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS 
"LIONHEART OF AVALON" part 4

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JOE QUESADA editor in chief • DAN BUCKLEY publisher

[illegible]



Kelsey?

A close-up, black and white comic panel showing the face of a woman with long, dark hair. Her eyes are closed or looking down, and a single tear is visible on her cheek. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows.



Nnnnnh...
Who's--

A close-up, black and white comic panel showing the face of a man with short, dark hair. He has a distressed or pained expression, with his mouth slightly open and his eyes looking upwards. The background is dark and textured.

Who's
talking?



Over here,
Kelsey.

A black and white comic panel showing a man running through a field. He is wearing a dark jacket and pants, and is looking back over his shoulder. The field is filled with tall grass and some small plants.



What--

Who are
you?

What is this
place?

This is
a fragment--
a shard of existence
between this life
and the next--

--although I did
not know that when I
first came here, and
it's not important
now.

You have
been brought here
because of your
courage and self-
sacrifice on behalf
of others--

--chosen
for a mission
that will mean the
life or death of
the realm.

You are asked
to select between
the two items
you see before
you.

The
sword and the
pendant.

What? *Why?*

This is--

I don't
understand
what's happen-
ing here.

I was--

That man
was beating me with
his ball and chain, and
I--my arms--he broke
them, and--

Didn't he?
Did I dream
that?

Did I--

Am I
dead?



Yes,
Kelsey. You
are.



Oh,
dear Lord. My
children.



I am Brian Braddock,
once known as Captain Britain, the
spirit and protector of England. And
this is my wife and co-champion,
Meggan.

Hello,
Kelsey.

We have the
power and the
dispensation to
return you, Kelsey
Leigh, to the world
you just left.

If you
choose between
the sword and the
amulet.

Then
of *course*
I'll choose. I'll do
whatever it takes to
get me back to my
children.

What
difference is
there in choosing
between these
two things?



It is not
for us to say
what the
difference is. Your
destiny is not
for us to
determine.

It is
in the choosing
that you set your
OWN destiny.



But before
you decide, you
must know
this:

To choose
may mean
returning to your
life--*as it
was*--

--with the
power to protect
the realm from the
forces which
threaten it even
now.

Or to
choose may
also mean never
seeing your
family again.





There are no right or wrong choices, Kelsey.

Merely different paths determined by fate and free will. You have chosen correctly to defend Avalon.

But my children!

I meant will I be able to see my children!

We know what you meant, Kelsey. And we are truly sorry.

But you chose the sword of might over the amulet of right.

The path of violence.

That choice has altered the lives of your children, as well as your own.

If you reveal yourself to Martin and Jenny again, their lives will end, painfully and horribly.

Their fate, the fate of Avalon--indeed, perhaps the fate of the entire world now depends upon you, for even now, the realm is invaded.

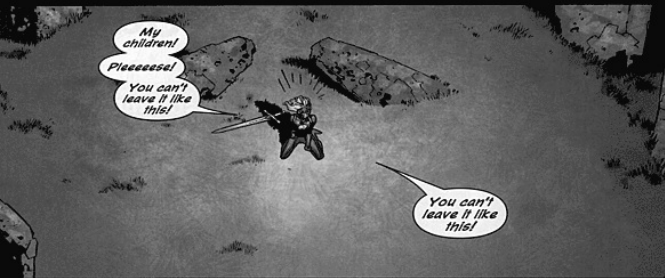
I'm sorry, Kelsey. The choice had to be made by you. There was no other way.

Fight well and fight hard, my champion. Be one with your brothers of the table round--

--Captain Britain.

No! No, this isn't fair!

I misunderstood! I would have chosen differently! I would have--





**WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE TO
HIM?!**





She has
got to practice
more with this
size-changing
routine!

Hang on!
I've got one
of my
boots!

My
hero.

All in a
day's work,
milady.

Now let's
see what's got
Jen all wound
up.







**WHAT
DID YOU DO
TO HIM?!**

Maaaaaster?!







Well, go with what works, I always say.

You're kidding, right?

Somewhere in there, there are germs your immune system is managing to fight off--
--just need a little boost-- to incubate and--
--and multiply--

The best you did last time we met was make us nauseous, babe.

There we go.

Well, what do you know. I *can* deal with the Wrecking Crew.



Jan! You're heading toward the town!

Can you get control of the Quinjet?!

What do you think I'm trying to do?! Make love to it?!



I'll try to shut it down!



No, just grab Clint and jump.



Whoop!



Tony! What are you doing?!



It's not me, Jan, I swear! The controls aren't working!





Master?

You--

--the *last*
person I *ever*
wanted to see
again.

Yes,
Master.

But I
have the
arrows.

You--

--stole--

--my--

--LIFE!

No!
You're
not--





I am
here, my
knight.

You
have done
well.



Truth--
thank you,
Master.

But I am
near--



--near--



--near
death
again--

I know,
my knight. I
can feel you
slipping from
me, even
now.



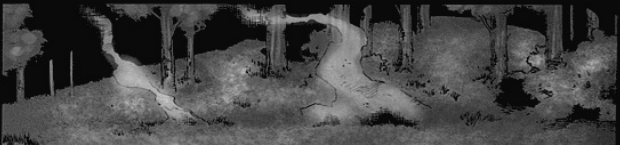
But as I
have pulled you
from beyond the
veil once, so
shall I hold you
here, now.

You have
but to reach me
with your prizes,
and all will
be well.



Thaaaat's
it--

No!



To be concluded...

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